UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF VIET NAM

(IPF: (1992-96) $92 774 000
(VIE/91/G31) - Conservation Training and Biodiversity Action Plan

Date of approval by the AC: 1/	15 January 1992
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS in association with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN)
Government implementing agency:	State Committee for Sciences (SCS)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$3 000 000 Source of funds: Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Total UNDP budget:	$3 000 000

Project background

The forecasts of Vietnam contain a wealth of plant and animal species. Both flora and fauna show a high degree of local distinctiveness with many endemic forms. Many of these endemic species are fast disappearing as approximately 250,000 hectares of forests are cleared and degraded each year. The state of the environment of Vietnam remains critical after the cessation of nearly four decades of warfare. While the Government has made a good start in the conservation of biodiversity, two major constraints exist which have a profound impact on the successful protection and management of these areas - inadequate capacity to plan and manage, and shortage of funds to devote to biodiversity conservation activities. Therefore, the Government has designed an environmental strategy and a framework for action.

Recognizing the lack of trained personnel to identify and implement conservation projects, the Government has also prepared a five-year funding proposal with external assistance in order to develop a comprehensive conservation training programme.

1/ This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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Description of project

The development objectives of the project are to: (a) strengthen the capacity of the Vietnamese Government to implement programmes which protect areas of high biodiversity importance through a whole range of training activities for guards, rangers, are managers, technicians, scientists and senior government officials, through both, in country as well as overseas fellowships and study tours; and (b) build on existing plans and strategies (National Conservation Strategy, Tropical Forestry Action Plan, National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development) to develop a specific Biodiversity Action Plan outlining a framework of costed actions necessary to preserve Vietnam's precious biodiversity, to reduce the loss of forest, and to safeguard water catchment areas and the ozone layer.

Project activities will include: (a) conducting a land survey and review of protected area designs; (b) reviewing the existing remote sensing map to establish priority areas for biodiversity conservation and "protected forest" areas; (c) drafting , reviewing and finalizing Biodiversity Action Plan; (a) improving existing training facilities and constructing new facilities in three National Parks; (e) conducting several in-country part protection courses (800 participants), park management courses (80 participants in total) and other special courses for community leaders, local officials etc.; (f) organizing and implementing overseas degree courses for a total of 15 professionals; and (g) organizing, implementing and following up on two study tours to national parts and protected areas in Southeast and South Asia for 30 mid-level Ministry of Forestry officials.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 96 work-months of consultant services and a total of 2,623 work-months of training in the form of fellowships, short courses, diploma courses, M.Sc. and Ph.D. courses, and in-service training; audio-visual and office equipment; and miscellaneous costs (all under sub-contracts with WWF and IUCN).

Financial data

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Subcontract	2 830 200
Executing Agency Management Cost	169 800
Total	3 000 000

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